

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

SIMMONS, Rob (Republican)
Representative, 2nd District, Connecticut
Elected 2000 to 107th Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: New York, New York - 11 February 1943

Home: Stonington, Connecticut

Marital status: Married (Heidi) - 2 children

Religion: Episcopalian

Education: Haverford College, B.S., 1965; Harvard Univ., M.P.A., 1979

Military: US Army, 1965-68; Army Reserve, 1970 - present

Profession: Professor, Congressional aide, CIA agent

Political: Succeeded Rep Sam Gejdenson (D), who he defeated in the 2000 general election with 51% of the vote. Reelected in 2002 with 54% of the vote. Candidate for Stonington Board of Selectmen, 1985; Connecticut House, 1991-2000.

Rep Simmons, a conservative, has said that despite military service in Vietnam and overseas CIA assignments, he is not going to focus exclusively on defense and foreign affairs issues. Plans to continue his agenda of cutting taxes--opposes both the estate tax and the marriage penalty tax. Also interested in preserving Social Security and expanding certain successful State programs, which are effectively addressing the prescription drug problem. As a Vietnam veteran, expressed concern about the readiness of America's military. Observed that during the 1990s, the military was engaged in 26 operational events at the same its budget was declining. Stated that the US military has been asked to do much more with much less. Supported rebuilding the Navy's submarine fleet, specifically the refurbishment and refueling of seven Los Angeles-class attack subs set for decommissioning. Believed that in future conflicts, space supremacy, satellites, and technology will determine the outcomes. Supports programs for veterans, such as continuing health care after retirement and requiring more veterans be required to serve on the House Veterans Affairs Cmte. Opposed downsizing in hospitals that created a drop in services to veterans.

In the 107th Congress, stated he was please what the DOD Auth bill did for the military and the state of Connecticut. Drew attention to additional engine mods of F-15 and F-16 fighters. Submitted amdt to the bill that authorized full reimbursement for professional liability insurance of counterterrorism employees. Stated the current education benefit in the GI bill is not enough and believed that "America's youth no longer see military service as a path to education."

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES - Subcs on Tactical Air & Land Forces; Projection Forces

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

VETERANS' AFFAIRS